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## THE 1948/49 SUGAR CAMPAIGN IN SOVIET ZONE GERMANY

For the first time since the end of the war, Germany's sugar production has exceeded one million tons. The sugar campaign in the Eastern Zone was the most successful since the war. The daily volume of processing was increased, thus shortening the total processing time considerably. The yearly production quota assigned to the laender was reached ahead of the deadline in a number of instances. Losses were reduced and yields increased. The amount of white sugar produced was 20 percent above the planned quantity of 510,000 tons.

Approximately 4.3 million tons of sugar beets were processed in 46 crudesugar refineries and 23 white-sugar refineries. Three shifts were run over a period of 65 days, employing 35,000 persons.

The sugar-beet cultivation area in the Eastern Zone was set at 199,800 hectares (196,000 hectares in 1947-48) by the plan, and 99.8 percent of this area was actually cultivated. The good weather permitted normal harvests of 30 tons of beets per hectare in many areas, although yields in Me klenburg and Brandenburg were poor. Only seven of 21 kreise in Mecklenburg fulfilled their quota. The kreise which made the poorest showing were Neustrelitz, Rostock, and Neubrandenburg; those which had the best yields were Parchim, Hagenow, and Ludwigslust. In Brandenburg, only 11 of the 31 kreise fulfilled their quota, with Templin, Calau, Angermuende, and Prenzlau the lowest, while Ostprignitz, Westhavelland, Westprignitz, and Forst all surpassed their quotas.

The sugar content of the beets varied, depending on the soil, the climate, and the care given the crops. Mecklenburg had the lowest average sugar content, 16.37 percent; Sachsen-Anhalt, with 17.87 percent, had the highest.

The average yield per nectare for the individual laender was as follows:

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Percent.

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Land	Tons of Beets per Hectare
Mecklenburg Brandenburg Sachsen Sachsen-Anhalt Thueringen	15.4 15.6 24.9 24.9 23.7
Average	21.9

This brings up the question as to wnether sugar beet cultivation in Mecklenburg should be expanded, or whether it would be more advantageous to concentrate on the laender where conditions are more favorable for higher yields.

The ratio of the area under sugar-beet cultivation to the entire cultivated area is as follows:

Land	Percentage of Cultivated Area Used for Growing Sugar Beets
Mecklenburg	4.1
Brandenburg	2.2
Sachsen-Anhalt	9.1
Sachsen	2.0
Thueringen	2.0

Transport of beets to the mills was carried out according to plan, with 35 percent of the crop shipped in October, 45 percent in November, and 20 percent in December. A total of 8 million tons of transport space was required as follows:

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Horse-drawn vehicles	49
Trucks	15.6
Narrow-gauge railroad	3.4
Reichsbahn	28.8
Ships	3.2

The losses caused by plant diseases and vermin are estimated at 120,000 tons.

The processing mills were better supplied with auxiliary materials, especially bituminous coal and coke, than in the previous year, although no shipments arrived from the Western Zones.

The beets were in good condition for processing, and the quality of the sugar produced was better than in the previous year. The weather was good and losses due to frost were slight. The average sugar content of the beets was 17.36 percent (17.19 percent the previous year).

The introduction of a bonus system had a favorable effect, increasing the quantity of beets processed daily and decreasing sugar losses. Since not all mills were informed, in time, of the introduction of the bonus system, further improvements can be expected in the coming year.

The sugar campaign has taught the following lessons: Planting is frequently done too late, so that dry spells prevent the beets from growing properly. Systematic campaigns against vermin must be carried out. The dates set for starting to harvest the beets must be made more elastic, and should depend on the degree of ripeness of the beets and on the status of the potato crop. The processing and the chemical treatment require further improvement.

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For better control and planning, most of the sugar mills will be consolidated into a Zonal Federation of People-Owned Mills, with headquarters at Halle. This will enable the mills to coordinate their efforts in solving their problems. Great efforts will have to be made to effect the necessary repairs and to increase the yields per hectare. Also, raw material supplies will have to be increased and the overhead should be lowered by 7 percent.

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